

of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on May 17, 2021, at 5:35 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 593.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,

*Clerk.*

### SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO DEFEND ITSELF

(Ms. GARCIA of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for Israel's right to defend itself against rocket attacks from Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza.

These attacks against Israel must be condemned. I applaud President Biden for actively engaging across the region to help bring about peace through diplomacy. Further conflict will certainly claim the lives of Israeli and Palestinian civilians, including children, and that is unacceptable.

As a Latina and a Catholic, it is my sincere prayer that Jerusalem will be a city of peace for all faiths, all nationalities, and all backgrounds. This lasting peace will only be possible if everyone, Palestinians and Israelis alike, have the opportunity for freedom and security promised by a two-state solution.

Those who plan for peace will have joy. Let it be so.

### MARKING TAX DAY

(Mr. MCCARTHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, 35 years ago, I fulfilled my American Dream to own a business when I opened a small deli. I was only 20 years old.

As a former small business owner, I understand how tough things can be, even in the good times. Running a small business taught me two important lessons: first, you are the first to work, last to leave, and the last to be paid; second, your margins are tight, and high taxes too often make it impossible for Main Street to beat the odds.

These lessons, which inspired me to enter public service, come to mind as we mark tax day. We should be on track for an incredible comeback. From jobs to vaccines, President Biden inherited an economy that was moving in the right direction because of Operation Warp Speed and the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which created the best economy in more than a generation.

But the policies of the current administration have squandered all that progress. Bidenomics has made a mess of the economy, transforming what should have been a strong comeback into a serious crisis in less than 6 months.

First, Democrats jammed through \$1.9 trillion of the so-called rescue plan that continued to give taxpayer-funded handouts to people to stay home and do nothing.

When he signed this spending package into law in March, President Biden promised America that help was on the way. But for business owners across the country, help wasn't on the way; "help wanted" signs were.

Describing his struggle to hire employees, Rod Harl, the CEO of Alene Candles, told his local paper last week: "We have had more than 100 positions open since the start of the year, and just recently, we increased sign-on bonuses to \$1,200 for hourly positions, in part because we were competing with an entity that can print its own money—the Federal Government—and its \$300 extra per week additional unemployment benefit."

Sadly, this isn't unique just to Mr. Harl. It is the same story I hear from businesses nationwide.

In a matter of months, we went from the highest job openings on record in March, 8.1 million—remember, that is the same month that President Biden signed his bill, that he thought help was on the way—to the biggest jobs report miss in more than two decades. Unemployment actually increased, despite the record number of openings.

For a brief moment during the pandemic, it made sense to encourage people to stay home, but now in May 2021, it defies logic. We should not tax the people who are working to continue to pay people who choose not to.

Another concern I hear from businesses and workers is rising inflation. Consumer prices in April saw their largest increase in a single month since 1981, soaring by more than 1 percent. Inflation taxes every single American and especially affects those with the least income.

But remember what President Biden promised, that he wouldn't raise taxes on families making less than \$400,000. By causing inflation to rise, President Biden has broken that pledge, and we are less than 5 months into this administration.

Madam Speaker, any economics class would tell you that the worst thing to do is exactly what Bidenomics has done to this country. He inherited one of the strongest economies, a GDP growing, and he actually did the opposite. He paid people to stay home. He put more money into the economy from government, which only drives up inflation. We have not seen something like this since Jimmy Carter took this country into stagnation.

Now, Americans are paying more at supermarkets, hardware stores, and gas stations, and it has only been 5 months. In fact, we have a serious gas shortage in a nation that was recently energy independent.

Could you imagine, Madam Speaker, becoming President of the United States and having a country that is energy independent, that is actually

sending natural gas to other nations, to waking up to no gas in the gas lines in America—not because Congress passed a bill but because the President signed an executive order?

Madam Speaker, I remember wanting to see my grandmother one day. It was back during the Jimmy Carter years, and my father told me no. I asked why we couldn't drive to see grandma, and it was because our license plate ended in an even number, not an odd. That is the only other time that you can compare what is happening in America today.

□ 1915

17,000 gas stations nationwide were completely emptied out. The average price of gasoline remains above \$3. This is the highest gasoline has been since the last time Biden was in office. In California, the average was \$4.12. In Virginia, prices were as high as nearly \$7 a gallon.

It didn't have to be this way. He didn't have to attack the hardworking Americans in the energy industry. His own Secretary of Energy said pipelines were good, even though he ended the Keystone XL pipeline and went after the ability for Americans to even drill on Federal land.

So now, Russia is sending gasoline to America? Does that make any sense, to make our enemies stronger, while Russia builds up thousands of troops along the border of Ukraine or enters into negotiations with Iran, who supplies missiles to shoot at our allies?

Instead of priming the pump, Bidenomics has emptied the tank. From inflation to gas lines, the American economy today looks more like it did in 1979 than in 2019, when wages were rising, businesses were growing, and unemployment was at record lows.

None of this is an accident, you see, Madam Speaker. It is a direct result of bad Federal policies that have distorted incentives and prices.

Yet President Biden, Speaker PELOSI, and other Democrats still want to tax and spend more. Even the most liberal economists tell you that is wrong, which very seldom happens. They decided to propose another \$5.2 trillion in new spending, as if there is a bottomless cash pit for politicians to draw on.

They also decided to propose the largest tax increase in American history, including making the corporate tax rate the highest in the world; higher than France; higher than Venezuela, a socialist country; and higher than Communist China.

Madam Speaker, why would the Democrats and Speaker PELOSI want to give China a benefit over America? I don't understand why we wouldn't look after American workers first.

These proposals reflect a fundamental difference between Republicans and these new socialist Democrats. Republicans believe that there is dignity and value in hard work and risk-taking. Democrats believe that progress comes by forcing people to be dependent on their government. That is not

progress, to force somebody to be dependent on government.

They want to control the decisions you make: when you can work, when you can drive, whether you should wear a mask. It doesn't matter what the science or the CDC says. If Speaker PELOSI has the power, she will enforce it on you.

They want to control what you can read on the internet and what you can teach your children. But look at history. I don't see a single country where Democrat socialist ideas worked before. They have all been failures.

My greatest fear is the direction you are sending America. In 5 months, America goes from energy independence to having gasoline stations without gas; from an economy where you have done nothing but grow back, to creating inflation we haven't seen in decades; to empowering our enemies, who only harm our allies. You have more help wanted signs in America—8 million—and you missed the jobs report, the worst we have seen in decades, by the action taken on this floor.

The hard part about it, Madam Speaker, is we warned you. We told you what would happen. We told you you were going to create inflation. We told you you were going to kill American jobs. You are going to reward people not to work. I have never been a believer in participation trophies. They don't work. They don't help. Certainly, those small businesses that have struggled to survive, you are crushing them.

Every indication, every number shows it. To sit here on the floor and say you will not raise their taxes, you are doing it right now. You are hurting the most vulnerable. Gas prices are higher. The bread, the lumber to even build the house, you are pricing them out.

The recent surge of bad economic news, in what should be a robust recovery, is a warning sign that your ideas are not working now. The last time inflation was this high, Joe Biden was Vice President. The last time gas prices were this high, Joe Biden was Vice President. We found the common denominator: President Biden's bad policies. Unfortunately, instead of learning from history, President Biden and Democrats are choosing to repeat it.

That was one of the low points in America, when inflation was high, interest rates were there, and the rest of the world questioned whether America was what they used to be. We proved what policies could matter: incentive to work, letting people keep more of what they earned; making America energy independent.

What is so amazing to me, when President Biden was elected, he had Operation Warp Speed, he got a vaccine, and he was vaccinated before he was even sworn in. He had millions of doses of the vaccine being produced. He had an economy rising, coming out of the COVID pandemic. He had more help wanted signs. If he literally did nothing,

America would be stronger. But he took the wrong actions, led by the socialist Democrats of this floor, Madam Speaker. Now America is hurting.

The only thing I ask: study history, listen to those who are creating jobs, take the incentive away where government is everything, and unshackle what holds us back. Let Americans have the freedom they deserve and desire. Prove that the next century will be ours once again.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

#### REPEAL THE STATE AND LOCAL TAX SALT CAP

(Ms. SHERRILL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise on tax day. Teachers, cops, single moms, seniors, veterans, middle-class Americans—I am here to speak for all of them today, to be their voice in the fight against a tax provision that punishes States like New Jersey for investing in its residents.

In States like mine, our State taxes go toward paying for top-tier public schools, investing in infrastructure and open spaces, and supporting a prevailing wage for our unions. That is why people move here. That is why families stay for generations.

But without the ability to deduct State and local taxes, calling New Jersey home is becoming less and less viable for our middle-class residents.

Seniors are rethinking retiring in New Jersey; married couples are rethinking starting a family in New Jersey; young people are rethinking moving back to New Jersey after college.

The bottom line is, you don't have to be a millionaire to be impacted by the SALT cap, and New Jersey families are getting taxed twice.

The time is now to bring relief to everyday middle-class New Jersey residents who are getting crushed by this cap.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF SUTTIE ECONOMY

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and legacy of Roanoke native and World War II Navy veteran Suttie Economy, who passed away earlier this month at the age of 95.

While Economy was proud of his service and the time he spent on the USS *English* in the South Pacific, he never forgot his fellow veterans who didn't make it home. Economy made it his life's mission to honor soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who gave their lives for the cause of American freedom.

Known for his efforts to maintain the Roanoke War Memorial, driving around

town in his red, white, and blue Yugo, and handing out Juicy Fruit gum, Economy made an impression whenever he went.

In 2008, he said one of his proudest moments was having marble flower vases added to the Star City's war memorial after years of lobbying, urging folks to: "Never forget those veterans."

His daughter said his work was never about him, but rather, it was always about the veterans who served and gave their lives.

With traffic stopped, a police officer standing at attention, and members of the Combat Veterans Motorcycle Association serving as pallbearers, Economy was laid to rest with the respect he deserved.

Fair winds and following seas, Suttie.

#### STANDING FOR ISRAEL

(Ms. SALAZAR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to declare my community's unshakable support for the State of Israel.

Israel has been under constant fire for over a week by Hamas, which is a terrorist organization supported by Iran. Over 3,100 rockets have been fired, 10 Israelis have been killed, and millions more would be at risk if not for the Iron Dome missile defense system protecting its citizens.

Make no mistake, Hamas is not interested in peace. Their goal is to destroy the Jewish State of Israel.

Hamas uses children as human shields and pays the terrorists' families for life.

Hamas launches the attacks but tries to paint Israel as the aggressor. At the same time, cynics or opportunists are taking advantage of this violent wave of terrorism to peddle anti-Semitic hate.

I am proud to stand for Israel, the only democratic country in the Middle East and its right to defend itself.

#### ISRAEL IS AMERICA'S STRONGEST ALLY

(Mr. COMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to stand with the people of Israel and their right to defend themselves against the Iranian-funded terrorist groups, Hamas and Hezbollah.

Last week, these terrorists began firing missiles into Israel and killing Israeli citizens. Since these unjustified attacks started, we have seen Members of Congress and the media rush to declare a moral equivalence between Israel and its attackers.

Let me be very clear: There is no moral equivalence between the State of Israel and terrorists who shield themselves with children, target civilian